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Letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Viet Nam in October 2009 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Le Luong Minh**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

09-63534 (E) 211209

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Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Viet Nam (October 2009)

During the presidency of Viet Nam in October 2009, the Security Council went through an extensive programme of work and took action on developments in Chad and the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, the Sudan, West Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, the Middle East, Lebanon, Timor-Leste, Kosovo and Haiti. The Council adopted its annual report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009.

During October 2009, the Security Council held 16 meetings, of which 15 were public ones, including an open debate on women and peace and security and another on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council held a private meeting under the item entitled "Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice". In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 11 occasions. The Council adopted five resolutions and three presidential statements, and issued six statements to the press.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Pham Gia Khiem, presided over the open debate on women and peace and security on 5 October. At that meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1889 (2009).

Africa

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 22 October, at a formal meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/535). In the consultations of the whole that followed, Council members welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the agreement of 13 August 2007 in Chad and took note of the commitment shown by the Government of Chad to implement that agreement. They called on armed groups to lay down their arms and encouraged stakeholders in Chad to further promote the momentum of reconciliation after the signing of the Tripoli peace agreement on 25 July 2009. Council members, however, remained concerned about the fluid security situation and humanitarian challenges in eastern Chad and the northern Central African Republic, as well as the ongoing tension in Chad-Sudan relations. They further encouraged the mediation efforts by regional countries to settle differences between Chad and the Sudan. Expressing strong support for MINURCAT in discharging its mandate in accordance with resolution 1861 (2009), Council members highly appreciated the contributions made by the Détachement intégré de sécurité to improving the humanitarian situation with the support of MINURCAT. They also called on troop-contributing countries and donors to extend necessary resources to expedite the full deployment of MINURCAT.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 13 October, the Council held closed consultations regarding the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on the basis of the twenty-second progress report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/495). Following a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Choi Young-Jin, members of the Council urged all parties in Côte d'Ivoire to unite their efforts to complete remaining tasks in preparation for the presidential elections scheduled for 29 November 2009, and to resolve through dialogue their differences in the spirit of reconciliation. Reiterating full support for the Ouagadougou political process and expressing the view that the priority was the holding of free, fair, open and transparent elections, they noted that lasting peace, and the stability and development of Côte d'Ivoire, were also dependent on a balanced and comprehensive settlement of many other security, socio-economic and cross-border challenges. They noted with interest the Secretary-General's observation that the successful holding of elections in Côte d'Ivoire would provide a basis for devising an exit strategy for UNOCI and that the United Nations country team would be closely consulting with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and other relevant partners on arrangements for the future engagement of the United Nations after the elections. They supported the role played by United Nations agencies, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, and the international community in helping Côte d'Ivoire achieve further progress in the post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction process.

On 27 October, during consultations of the whole, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire presented to Council members the final report of the Group of Experts contained in document S/2009/521. Two days later, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1893 (2009), by which it decided to renew until 31 October 2010 the sanctions imposed by resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005) and to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts for another year.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 16 October, at a formal meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Alan Doss, on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/472). The briefing was followed by closed consultations during which Council members took note of some encouraging progress in the implementation of the agreements of 23 March and the improvement in the relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. They supported and encouraged the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and his Co-Facilitator in facilitating the rapprochement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and promoting long-term stability in the Great Lakes region. However, Council members expressed their deep concerns about the serious humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the severe impact of the military operations on civilians since the beginning of 2009, and at the same time highlighted challenges to the stabilization process in the eastern part of the country, especially regarding the reintegration of the Congolese armed groups into the Armed Forces of

the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Council members reiterated their support for MONUC in delivering its mandate in accordance with resolution 1856 (2008), particularly in protecting civilians. Council members also emphasized the importance of tackling impunity for crimes and misconduct within the Armed Forces and stressed that MONUC support to the Armed Forces' brigades must be conditional upon their compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Council members further encouraged close cooperation and coordination between MONUC and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in empowering State institutions and resolving the question of armed groups.

Somalia

On 8 October, at a public meeting, the Council received briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, and the Director of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Craig Boyd, on major developments in Somalia and the prospects for moving forward in incremental steps towards the transition to a possible United Nations peacekeeping mission there from the current AMISOM, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/503). Council members strongly supported the recent work of AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government in the face of extreme security challenges, expressed their condolences to the Mission's contingents there for losses in the attacks of 17 September, and called for firm action to deal with "spoilers". Many Council members commended Uganda and Burundi for their troop contributions and called on those countries that had pledged additional troops and financial resources to actualize their commitments.

Sudan

On 13 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1891 (2009), by which it decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts concerning the Sudan sanctions until 15 October 2010.

On 28 October, during closed consultations, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) (S/2009/545). Council members remained concerned about the inter-tribal violence in southern Sudan and the delays in the implementation of key benchmarks of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. They condemned the attacks perpetrated by the Lord's Resistance Army against civilians in the Sudan and the subregion. On a positive note, Council members commended the commitment of the partners under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to abide by the decision of the Court of Arbitration on the status of Abyei, as well as their willingness to iron out the outstanding differences in preparing the draft law for the conduct of the 2011 referendum. They further called on the partners to ensure a stable environment conducive to free, fair, credible and successful elections in 2010. Expressing high appreciation of the efforts of UNMIS, they reiterated their strong support for UNMIS in discharging its mandate, especially in protecting civilians and extending electoral assistance to the Government of the Sudan with a view to facilitating the process of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Peace and security in Africa

On 26 October, the Council held a debate during which the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on support to the African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2009/470). The Chair of the African Union-United Nations panel, Romano Prodi, participated in the meeting and addressed the Council. At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/26) by which it, inter alia, reiterated the primary role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security; reiterated the responsibility of regional organizations to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from donors; commended the support extended by donors to the African Union Peace and Security Architecture; noted the assessment of the options for financing African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council outlined in the report of the Secretary-General and expressed its intention to keep all options under consideration within the established rules and procedures of the United Nations; supported the enhancement of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, especially between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council; and welcomed the intention of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission to set up a joint task force on peace and security to review immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 21 October, during informal consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Haile Menkerios, on his recent visit to Guinea and the subregion. Council members supported diplomatic efforts by the United Nations, the International Contact Group for Guinea, the African Union and ECOWAS aimed at restoring peace, stability and justice in Guinea, and commended the mediation efforts of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso in his capacity as the Special Envoy of the Chairman of ECOWAS. They urged the de facto authorities in Guinea to implement fully their pledge to cooperate with the United Nations in its independent investigations. They also demanded that the parties in Guinea exercise maximum restraint, attend to the constitutional order and the rule of law, and accord the highest priority to the safety and security of Guinean civilians, thus helping to prevent further deterioration of the situation and create favourable conditions for the planning and conduct of the legislative elections.

On 28 October, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/27) in which it, inter alia, condemned the violence that had occurred in Conakry on 28 September, welcomed the statement of the ECOWAS Summit supporting the Secretary-General's decision to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate the events of 28 September, and called for the elections to be organized as scheduled in 2010.

Americas

Haiti

On 12 October, in a statement to the press, the Council members expressed their deep distress and shock at the crash of a United Nations flight affiliated with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which had reportedly crashed in Haiti with 10 passengers on board, none of whom survived. They conveyed their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives in that incident.

On 13 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1892 (2009), by which it decided to extend the mandate of MINUSTAH until 15 October 2010, endorsed the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his most recent report (S/2009/439) to maintain the current overall force levels of the Mission until the planned substantial increase of the Haitian National Police capacity allowed for a reassessment of the situation, while adjusting its force configuration to better meet the current requirements on the ground. The Council reaffirmed its call on MINUSTAH to support the ongoing political process, promote an all-inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation, and provide logistical and security assistance for the upcoming elections in 2010. The Council also invited Member States, including neighbouring and regional States, to strengthen their engagement with the Government of Haiti to address cross-border trafficking in persons, in particular children, the illicit trafficking of drugs and arms and other illegal activities.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 8 October, by unanimously adopting resolution 1890 (2009), the Council decided to extend the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for 12 months beyond 13 October 2009. The Council called on Member States to contribute personnel, equipment and other resources in order to allow ISAF to meet security and assistance challenges, and stressed the importance of strengthening the Afghan security sector in providing security and helping to ensure the rule of law throughout the country.

On 28 October, following the attack in Kabul on the same day which caused deaths of United Nations staff, the Council took up the issue in consultations of the whole. The Council was briefed by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the incident and, after consultations, issued a statement to the press condemning the attack and reiterating the Council members' support for the role of the United Nations in the country.

On 29 October, during urgent consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the security situation in Afghanistan, especially following the terrorist attack in Kabul targeting the United Nations. He asked the Council members to support his further measures to protect United Nations personnel in this context. He noted that, not counting peacekeepers, 27 United Nations civilian personnel had lost their lives to violence thus far in 2009, more than half of them in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Following the consultations, the

Council convened a meeting to adopt a presidential statement (S/PRST/2009/28), by which members voiced support for the measures taken by the Secretary-General to ensure staff security and commended the determination of the United Nations not to be deterred by the attack from carrying out its mandates.

Iraq/Kuwait

On 22 October, after informal consultations following a briefing by the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the repatriation of Kuwaiti property, Gennady Tarasov, the Council issued a statement to the press in which its members expressed support for the Secretary-General's proposal for a confidence- and cooperation-building period, noted the positive intention of both Iraq and Kuwait to resolve these matters and agreed to finance the continuation of the activities of the High-level Coordinator for a further period of eight months. They also called on Iraq and Kuwait to redouble their efforts in the coming months to achieve visible and significant progress in the search for missing persons and property, which would further strengthen existing friendly relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

Timor-Leste

On 23 October, the Council held a debate to discuss the Secretary-General's latest report covering the activities of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2009/504). In his briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Atul Khare, stressed that the stable security situation in Timor-Leste over the review period was encouraging and important to the country's political and socio-economic development, and that the continued assistance of the international community was required to ensure the long-term stability of Timor-Leste. Addressing the Council, the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, José Luís Guterres, elaborated on the institutional progress that the country had achieved and emphasized the need to invest in social and economic development to ensure sustainable peace and stability. Most speakers welcomed the positive developments in Timor-Leste, especially the peaceful holding of local elections, the closing of the camps for internally displaced persons, the gradual assumption of security responsibility by the national police in conjunction with UNMIT, and the measures taken by the Government to enhance socio-economic development throughout the country.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 7 October, during urgent consultations of the whole, the Council exchanged views on the request of a Council member to convene an urgent meeting to discuss the report of the United Nations Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, headed by Justice Richard Goldstone (also referred to as the "Goldstone report") (see S/2009/586). After intensive consultations, the Council decided to hold its open debate on the Middle East on 14 October, instead of 21 October as previously scheduled.

At the open debate on 14 October, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who said that political efforts to resolve the

Arab-Israeli conflict had continued but there had been no significant progress on the ground. He confirmed the Secretary-General's support for the work of the Fact-finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict and his call for credible national investigations into the conduct of the conflict without delay, which was echoed by a number of delegations that addressed the Council after the briefing. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, the Permanent Representative of Israel and 27 other speakers addressed the Council. Many speakers called for an end to all acts of violence and for strict compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as for the safety and security of all civilians, diplomatic and United Nations premises and personnel. They urged all parties concerned to rise to shoulder their mutual obligations under the road map, the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant Security Council resolutions, thus contributing to the peaceful settlement of the Israel-Palestine and Arab-Israel conflicts, and the ultimate attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. A number of participants expressed concern about the findings in the Goldstone report and the need to urgently address the continuing grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including the need for the long-overdue reconstruction process to commence. Regarding Lebanon, speakers reiterated their support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and expressed the hope that a Government of Lebanon would be named soon.

Lebanon

On 27 October, during closed consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, on the tenth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2009/542). Members of the Council called upon all parties concerned in Lebanon to adhere to the Doha Agreement, transcend sectarian interests, and reconvene the National Dialogue. They further noted the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Members of the Council expressed their concern about recent security incidents in southern Lebanon and called for full implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) on all related fronts, ultimately leading to the assumption of full, effective and sole security responsibility by the Government and Armed Forces of Lebanon over the entire Lebanese territory. They urged the parties concerned to take practical steps in collaboration with UNIFIL to investigate acts of violence, tackle outstanding disputes by peaceful means and avoid any action that might potentially destabilize the situation on the ground. They also reiterated support for full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions directed towards the restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Europe

Kosovo

On 15 October, at the request of a member, the Council convened urgent consultations of the whole. In the debate that followed, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamberto Zannier, on the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and related developments between 1 June and 15 September 2009. The

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, and Skender Hyseni from Kosovo were invited to participate in the meeting. In their interventions, Council members welcomed the reconfiguration of UNMIK and its cooperation with the European Union Rule of Law Mission, as well as the re-employment of ethnic Serb police officers. Council members also called for the improvement of conditions conducive to the return of more displaced persons. They emphasized the continuing validity of resolution 1244 (1999) and recognized that UNMIK had adjusted its role on accordance with the realities on the ground.

General issues

Women and peace and security

On 5 October, presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Pham Gia Khiem, the Council held an open debate on the item entitled "Women and peace and security", focused on responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security on the basis of a concept paper submitted earlier by the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam (S/2009/490). The Council also had before it the latest report of the Secretary-General on the issue (S/2009/465).

Addressing the Council, the Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro; the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel N. Mayanja; the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, Inés Alberdi; and more than 50 other participants emphasized the need to strengthen the protection and engagement of women during and after conflicts as well as to incorporate women's empowerment into broader development efforts in countries emerging from conflict. Drafted by Viet Nam and co-sponsored by 21 countries, resolution 1889 (2009) was adopted unanimously. In the resolution the Council urged United Nations bodies, Member States and civil society to ensure that women's empowerment is taken into account during post-conflict assessment, planning and financing, and that actions are taken to improve women's participation at all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit within six months, for consideration, a set of indicators to track the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and to submit a report within 12 months on addressing women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding and planning in the aftermath of conflict.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

In response to the two attacks in Kabul on 8 and 28 October, the attack on 18 October in the border city of Pishin in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the series of terrorist attacks in Baghdad on 25 October, the Council promptly issued statements to the press, strongly condemning those acts of terrorism, reiterating its determination to combat, in accordance with international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, all forms of terrorism and to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those terrorist attacks to justice, and calling for international cooperation to this end.

Other matters

International Court of Justice

On 29 October, the Council held a private meeting with the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Hisashi Owada, during which the role of the Court as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and its important contributions to the development and application of international law, in particular in the field of peaceful settlement of international disputes, were underlined.

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 29 October, at a public meeting, following introductory remarks by the President, members of the Council heard a presentation by the Permanent Representative of Uganda, which held the presidency of the Council in July 2009 and was tasked with drafting the introductory part of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. The Council then adopted its annual report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 (A/64/2).